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Introduced Version

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**HOUSE  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_**

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*Introduced by: Gregg, Bosma*

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A RESOLUTION supporting civic education and declaring the third week of September as Indiana's Legislators Back to School Week.

*Whereas, Indiana was created as a representative democracy in which all governmental power is inherent in the people who exercise that power through the legislative, executive, and judicial branches;*

*Whereas, In recent years, citizen interest in government and knowledge of the political system has declined in part due to a weakening belief in, and a lack of understanding of the virtues and knowledge needed for a successful republican form of government;*

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*Whereas, Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence stated, "There is but one method of rendering a republican form of government durable, and that is by disseminating the seeds of virtue and knowledge through every part of the state by means of proper places and modes of education and this can be done effectively only by the aid of the legislature";*

*Whereas, The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has passed a resolution that says that the operations of the state legislatures and the roles of individual legislators are often little understood by citizens, and that public understanding of the institutions and processes of the government is critical to building public trust and confidence;*

*Whereas, The NCSL resolution also states that state legislatures need to bring about better understanding of the concept of representative democracy and that education about representative democracy should emphasize the importance of compromise and the difficulty of resolving competing interests in a diverse society;*

*Whereas, Civic education is a vital tool to promote greater understanding of the legislative institution and the role of legislators in representative democracy;*

*Whereas, NCSL urges the nation's state legislatures to promote civic education about representative democracy;*

*Whereas, NCSL has established America's Legislators Back to School Week, a national week during which state legislators across the nation visit schools and classrooms to talk about the legislature and to observe activities in the schools; and*

*Whereas, Legislators will benefit from interacting with students, teachers, and administrators: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly supports civic
- 2           education to promote greater understanding of the legislative institution
- 3           and the role of legislators in a representative democracy.



1           SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly declares the third  
2           week in September as Indiana's Legislators Back to School Week and  
3           urges all members of the legislature to visit schools during that week.

